



State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

November 17, 2008


Notice of Determination for the Land Management Plan for the Antelope Valley and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Areas.

Enclosed are the Notice of Determination (NOD) and a copy of the fee exemption form for the Final Management Plan and Negative Declaration for the Antelope Valley and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Areas.

The draft plan and accompanying negative declaration was submitted to the State Clearing House and was subject to public review beginning August 8, 2008 and ending September 8, 2008. Public comments were accepted after the end of the official thirty day review period to provide sufficient opportunity for interested user groups to comment on the proposed draft plan, initial study and mitigated negative declaration.

A synopsis of the comments received and the Department's written responses may be found in Appendix A, "Public Outreach Summary" within the Final Plan. The Department has approved the plan and is filing the NOD in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code. The environmental documents plus an electronic copy of the Plan on CD is included with this memo.

Copies of the final documents may be viewed at the North Coast Regional office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, California and on the Department's website at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/pubnotice/> If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Paul Raquel, Senior Biologist Supervisor (Wildlife) at (916) 358 -2868


Kevin Hunting
Deputy Director of Regional Operations

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Paul Raquel, North Central Region
Mr. Jim Lidbeg, North Central Region
Ms. Teresa Le Blanc, Lands Program



Notice of Determination

Form C

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail: Street Address:
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St.
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk

County of: _____
 Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: Department of Fish and Game
 Address: 1701 Nimbus Rd. Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Contact: Paul Raquel

Phone: 916-358-2868

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2008082031

Project Title: Antelope Valley and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Areas Land Management Plan

Project Location (include county): Sierra County, SR 49 and Antelope Valley Road

Project Description:

The project being approved is the adoption and implementation of the Land Management Plan (LMP). The LMP will guide the Department's management, planning, and operations of the Antelope Valley Wildlife Area (AVWA) and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area (SCWA).

This is to advise that the CA Department of Fish and Game has approved the above described project on

11-18-08

(Date)

☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency

and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☐ were ☒ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
5. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: 1701 Nimbus Rd. Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Signature (Public Agency) [Signature]

Title Deputy Director

Date 11-18-08

Date Received for filing at OPR _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2005



California Department of Fish and Game
Certificate of Fee Exemption
De Minimis Impact Finding

Project Title: Management Plan for the Antelope Valley and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Areas

Project Location (including County): Located in Sierra County, State Route 49 and Antelope Valley Road

Name and Address of Project Proponent: California Department of Fish and Game, North Central Region; 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova CA 95670

Project Description: The purpose of the management plan is to serve as a descriptive inventory of fish, wildlife and native plant communities ; provide an overview of the area's operations and maintenance activities and describe goals and general tasks to accomplish effective property stewardship. The Plan also discusses the area's primary purpose and appropriate public use.

Findings of Exemption:

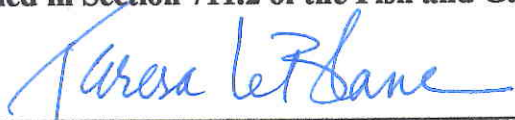
1. An Initial Study has been conducted by California Dept. Fish and Game to evaluate the potential for adverse environmental impacts.
2. A Negative Declaration has been prepared by the California Dept. Fish and Game.
3. The lead agency has no evidence before it, including the information in the Initial Study, the Negative Declaration and public comments, to indicate that the proposed project could have any potential for an adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources or the habitat upon which the fish and wildlife depends.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the lead agency has made the above findings and that based upon the record, the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on fish or wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.



Reference: COR Section 753.5



Signature of Planning Official
Teresa Le Blanc
Title
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Lead Agency Name
Department of Fish and Game
Date 11/19/08

FINAL
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
ANTELOPE VALLEY AND SMITHNECK CREEK WILDLIFE AREAS

Prepared for:

California Department of Fish and Game
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

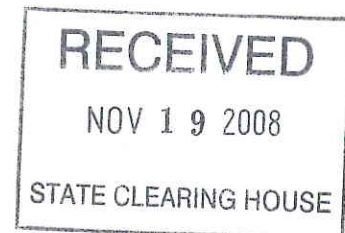
Prepared by:

EDAW
2022 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 414-5800

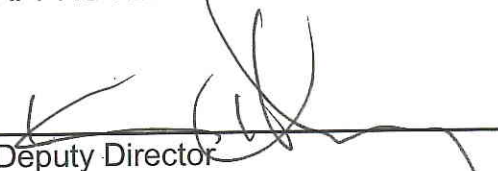
APPROVED BY:


Regional Manager

11/10/08
Date



APPROVED BY:


Deputy Director

11-18-08
Date